

FIRST
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
UNION COLONY OF COLORADO,
INCLUDING A
HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF GREELEY,
FROM ITS DATE OF SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME;
WITH
DESCRIPTIVE CHAPTERS
ON
*Agriculture, Irrigation, Climate, Mountain Scenery, Flora,
Churches, Schools, Societies, &c.*

Price 25 Cents;

WITH MAP OF GREELEY AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY, 75 CENTS.

TRADE SUPPLIED BY AMERICAN NEWS CO., 119 & 121 NASSAU STREET.

NEW-YORK;
GEORGE W. SOUTHWICK, 2277 THIRD AVENUE.
1871.

The Union Colony of Colorado.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

NATHAN C. MEEKER, ROBERT A. CAMERON,
E. C. MONK, W. W. WILCOX.
J. H. PINKERTON.

OFFICERS.

President :—NATHAN C. MEEKER,
Vice President :—GEN. ROBERT A. CAMERON
Treasurer :—DR. CHAS. EMERSON,
Secretary :—FRANK M. BABCOCK.
Engineer :—E. S. NETTLETON.
Secretary Bureau of Statistics and Information,
WILLIAM E. PABOR.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

E. A. HOLLISTER, *Chairman*.
N. HOLMES. O. PLUMB.
J. C. SHATTUCK. F. L. CHILDS.
E. W. GURLEY. E. NYE.
L. VON GOHREN. ELI HALL.
B. S. LAGRANGE. JOHN LEVY.
E. C. ALPHONSE.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

For information concerning passage tickets, special rates for freight, routes of travel, etc., address the Bureau of Statistics and Information, Greeley, Colorado.

UNION COLONY OF COLORADO.

CHAPTER I.

ORGANIZATION OF UNION COLONY.

In the early part of December, 1869, an article, entitled "A Western Colony," appeared in the *New-York Daily Tribune*. We quote the essential paragraphs from it, as follows :

"I propose to unite with proper persons in the establishment of a Colony in Colorado Territory.

"The persons with whom I would be willing to associate must be Temperance men, and ambitious to establish good society.

"My plan would be to make the settlement almost wholly in a village ; all the lots of the village should be sold, that funds may be obtained for making improvements for the common good, such as the building of a church, a town hall, a school-house, and for the establishment of a library. Adjoining the village, the outlying tracts could be apportioned, by lot or otherwise, in size according to distance from the village center. Some of the advantages of settling in a village will be easy access to schools and public places, meetings, lectures, and the like, and society can be had at once.

"Farmers will be wanted ; nurserymen, florists, and almost all kinds of mechanics, as well as capitalists, to use the coal and water-power in running machinery. The first settlers, must of course, be pioneers, for houses, mills and mechanic shops are to be built, that families may come with few privations. Whatever professions and occupations enter into the formation of an intelligent, educated and thrifty community should be embraced by this Colony, and it should be the object to exhibit all that is best in modern civilization. In particular, should moral and religious sentiments prevail, for without these qualities man is nothing. At the same time, tolerance and liberality should also prevail. One thing more is equally important—happiness, wealth and the glory of a State spring from the family—and it should be an aim and a high ambition to preserve the family pure in all its relations, and to labor with the best efforts life and strength can give to make the home comfortable, to beautify and adorn it, and to supply it with whatever will make it attractive and loved.

"I make the point that two important objects will be gained by such a colony. *First*, schools, refined society, and all the advantages of an old country, will be secured in a few years ; while, on the contrary, where settlements are made by the old methods, people are obliged to wait twenty, forty or more years. *Second*, with free homesteads as a basis, with the sale of reserved lots for the general good, the greatly increased values of real estate, will be for the benefit of all the people, not for schemers and speculators. In the success of this Colony, a model will be presented for settling the remainder of the vast territory of our country.

"Persons wishing to unite in such a colony, will please address me at the *Tribune* office, stating their occupation, and the value of the property which they could take with them.

(Signed)

N. C. MEEKER."

It is probable that, on the morning the above call appeared, its writer had no idea the seed thus sown would spring up rapidly under the genial influence of the *Tribune*, and bring forth an hundred-fold return. But as day follow-

ed day, and each incoming mail brought scores of responses from persons in all parts of the country and of every condition in life, it became necessary to plan a realization of the idea thus introduced to the community at large. Accordingly, a meeting was called for December 23d, in Room No. 24, Cooper Institute, New-York city—a room made famous by the weekly discussions of the Farmers' Club, and therefore very appropriately chosen for the proposed organization. It was the writer's good fortune to be present on that occasion; the room was comfortably full, and individuals were present from every Eastern State, from Western New-York, from New-Jersey and Pennsylvania. The Hon. Horace Greeley was appointed to preside, and, on taking the chair, made a few remarks pertinent to the object before the meeting. He believed that there ought to be, not only one, but one thousand colonies—there were multitudes of men working for wages who ought to emigrate. He disliked to see men in advanced life working for salaries in places where, perhaps, they were ordered about by boys. He would like to see them working for themselves.

Mr. N. C. Meeker followed. He had received over eight hundred letters—their writers represented all trades, professions and pursuits; many educated; the majority farmers, and fully one-half church members. It was necessary that a committee be appointed to go and search for a location that will be suited to the greatest variety of pursuits. The plan is certainly an experiment, and for a first colony more natural advantages will be required than for other colonies, having for a guide the experience of a pioneer colony. He named, in the order of their importance, what should be sought: healthfulness; a varied and rich soil; timber; coal; iron ore; adaptation to fruit; water-power; beauty of scenery. The interests of so many families, with the earnings of their lives and the comforts of home, the interests of so many industrious, skillful, intelligent and well-to-do people should not be put in jeopardy for want of thorough investigation.

Mr. Meeker was followed by various other gentlemen,

all expressing themselves favorable to a plan of organization, among them Gen. Robt. A. Cameron, of Elmira, who said he had gone to Indiana when it was a wilderness, and to Chicago when it was a mud-hole, and now he wanted to go to Colorado, for no where in the globe is there such another country as the west. The great mining region was to be developed, and to do this would create a market that could not be over-stocked.

It was finally decided to organize as the "Union Colony," with the following named officers: N. C. Meeker, President; Gen. R. A. Cameron, Vice President; Horace Greeley, Treasurer. An Executive Committee of five was also chosen, and this resolution adopted:

"That each member pay \$5 for current expenses, and also hold subject to the call of the Treasurer \$150, for a purchase fund for the land to be bought, and that said money shall be refunded if the land is not settled within a reasonable period, to be prescribed by the Executive Committee."

Fifty-nine members enrolled their names—paid their initiation fee of five dollars, and then, amid the greatest enthusiasm and the most perfect harmony, the meeting adjourned, to allow the Executive Committee to prepare the Constitution and By-Laws of the Union Colony. These, in a few days, were printed in circular form, and distributed. The salient features were as follows:

The object of the Colony shall be to settle on Government or other cheap land, to the end that men may engage in various industries and pursuits; have homes of their own; and that churches and schools may be convenient.

Persons wishing to become members, must be temperance men, and of good moral character.

A Locating Committee to report a suitable location; when found, the Treasurer to purchase and hold the same in trust for the Colony; said lands to be deeded in designated parcels to the members, as the Executive Committee shall direct; deeds for the same to be executed, whenever a member, in good faith, enters upon his land to make improvements.

Four quarter sections or six hundred and forty acres to be located centrally, and divided into business and residence lots; grounds to be reserved for a plaza, schools,

churches, and other public institutions. The business and residence lots so laid out to be sold, one of each to each member of the Colony, at a fixed valuation, and the proceeds devoted to improvements for the common welfare.

Lands adjoining the town plot to be divided into lots of five, ten, twenty, forty and eighty acres, according to their distance from the town center, and deeded one to each member as they may choose or the Committee shall decide.

It will be seen that in no way is the Colony organized as a "community," in the sense of the term as used in connection with the Oneida community. The impression seems to have gone abroad that such is the case, but nothing is further from the fact. We are an organization for the sole purpose of controlling, by purchase and sale, a large body of land; all other interests are separate, distinct and entire—as much so as in any town or city in the land. The plot of ground chosen, once deeded to a member of the Colony, belongs to him, and he has the sole right to its disposal. He chooses his own business and minds it, or neglects it, without interference. His family affairs are as private as they were in his eastern home. His accumulations are his own—to squander or to save, as he may elect. We desire, therefore, that our social position may not be misunderstood, since no element of communism enters into it. We are a Union Colony, in so far as matters relate to our mutual interests, and no further.

Coupled with the Constitution and By-Laws; were paragraphs on irrigation, showing that by this means the growth and yield of fruit, vegetables and grain are enormous; that its cost is but trifling, and, after the system has been once established, farmers need be dependent no longer upon rain falls, as "seed-time and harvest" are sure.

So was launched the good ship UNION COLONY OF COLORADO, freighted with the fresh hopes, the re-awakened ambitions, the newly kindled desires of hundreds of souls. From near and far they came; the inlets of Maine sent representatives to join hands with those who came from the lagoons of Florida; the hardy men of Minnesota stood

shoulder to shoulder with those who grew up under the shadow of the Alleghany Range; and the New-Yorker kept pace with the Virginian, on the broad deck of the good ship, plowing her way westward.

Twenty-seven States of our glorious Union, sent gallant sons to serve under a gallant leader. Surely, with the successful ventures from the time Cecrops led forth his Egyptian Colony to found Athens, down to the settlement of Virginia by the London Company, this should take honored rank. Strangers all, yet bound by kindred ties; each with a past checkered by sad experiences and glad mementoes, yet each looking forward to a future full of promise; each and all centering their hopes upon one object, and that located afar off, at the foot of the Shining Mountains, on the slopes of the Everlasting Hills. Well may we pause to wonder and while we wonder to admire—

“Sail on, sail on, oh ship of state!
Sail on, oh UNION, strong and great;
Humanity with all its fears,
With all its hopes of future years
Is hanging breathless on thy fate.”

CHAPTER II.

LOCATION.—TOWN SITE.—FIRST ARRIVALS.

On the third day of February the Locating Committee, consisting of N. C. Meeker, R. A. Cameron, and H. T. West, set out in search of the promised land. Of these three, one had resided for thirty-five, another for twenty-five and the third for ten years in the West, and during these periods had visited every Western State from Canada to the Gulf. They were therefore well qualified for the important trust confided to them by the Executive Committee.

During this trip the Committee carefully explored parts of Kansas, Nebraska, Arkansas, New Mexico, Wyoming and Utah. But it was difficult to select so large a tract of land as the Colony required in one body, and one cause with another operated to decide against locating in any one of these States or Territories.

Nebraska's great want was a market for its productions. Arkansas had its enervating climate, and New Mexico sadly needed suitable railroad accommodation. During their journeyings through Utah and Wyoming the Committee were particularly impressed with the beauty of Bear Valley in the vicinity of Evanston, on the Union Pacific Railroad. Here are many and rare advantages for a Colonial settlement of perhaps an hundred families; coal, iron and wood abound in the neighborhood. This Valley still lies open for settlement, presenting advantages that need only to be seen to be properly appreciated. But Union Colony, with six hundred families and the promise of four hundred more, needed more room than could be found in Bear Valley, and so the Committee reluctantly turned their faces from it, and, crossing the Border, entered the Territory of Colorado. With great care they explored the Lower Platte, the Great Bend of the Platte, the Platte Canyon, Box Elder Creek emptying into the La Poudre River, near the base of the mountains, the Thompson and the St. Vrans. Box Elder Valley was found to be one of the finest agricultural valleys in the Territory. It has wood within six miles, with water of excellent quality and sufficient quantity from the Poudre, and lies within easy reach. Crossing the Divide South of Denver they explored Monument Valley, the Fontaine qui Bouille and the Arkansas. It was also their intention to visit San Luis Park, but snow in the Sangre de Christo Pass prevented. They found the scenery of Monument Valley very fine and for a few families presented favorable inducements for settlement. But the insufficient supply of water for a large tract of land forbade its selection for Union Colony.

At last, after a month of journeying in the wilderness they were enabled to send, on the wings of the lightning, the tidings east, that on the 5th day of April, "Union Colony, No. 1, N. C. Meeker, President, and Horace Greeley, Treasurer, located in Colorado Territory, on the delta formed by the junction of the Cache-la-poudre and the Platte Rivers, and on the Denver Pacific Railway,

midway between Denver, Colorado and Cheyenne, Wyoming. The new town has been named Greeley. Houses, mills, stores, churches, and schools are to be erected the coming season.

So, after mature deliberation, careful examination, and a thorough canvass of the advantages and disadvantages of this, in comparison with other locations, the final choice was made.

Of the Cache-la-poudre, in whose valley was chosen the site of the future "City of the Plains," Fitz Hugh Ludlow thus wrote in his "Heart of the Continent:"—"This stream is one of the most beautiful torrents which we saw on our entire journey. It comes from the Everlasting Snow Line of the Peaks about Cheyenne Pass, and its entire course to the Platte is broken by no great fall, with a tolerably even grade and considerable winding of direction. It swarms with fine fish and is the most mysteriously seductive of streams."

Mr. E. S. Nettleton, Engineer of Union Colony, gives the fall of the river near the Foot Hills, as the first range to the west of the town is called, at twenty feet to the mile gradually decreasing until immediately opposite Greeley it has but a fall of about eleven feet to the mile.

It has been truly said that "a city never becomes the leading one of a section unless in addition its geographical position is such that it can become a centre of travel and a point of distribution." In examining the new town of Greeley in this light a glance at the map published in connection with this report, shows it to be located at the outlet of a wide agricultural country, which naturally is tributary to it, as it lies opposite the Platte, where it comes to receive the Cache-la-Poudre, while the valleys of the Big and Little Thompson and of St. Vrain open full upon it and from them radiate tributary valleys. In addition to this the Platte Valley, from two to seven miles wide, will be open to it in the days to come by settlements pushed out, from the Missouri river on the East, by the Kansas Pacific on the South, and by the settlements along the Rocky Mountains on the West.

The *Rocky Mountain News* in commenting upon the location selected, said :

"The town site will be in every respect desirable ; Eastward the outlook is down the plain that stretches unbroken to the Missouri River, six hundred miles away, relieved by the groves and fringes of timbers that skirt the Poudre and Platte Rivers and Crow Creek. North and South are rolling prairies, and Westward, the same to the Mountain foot, twenty-one miles distant but plainly distinct and in the wonderfully clear, rarified atmosphere, seeming scarce half a dozen miles away. Beyond that line rises the great Rocky Mountain chain, massive and dark with pine forests, rising ridge beyond and above ridge until they culminate in the lofty, snowy range, sixty miles away and with a sweep of at least a hundred and fifty miles. Long's Peak is the nearest and seems the leftmost in sight. It bears southwest by west and is over fourteen thousand feet high. Snow is always visible on the main range."

The Executive Committee soon officially announced the location to the members of the Colony, giving all particulars of the site and the country surrounding it. The town site is in Latitude 40 deg. 25 min., North, Longitude 27 deg. 48 min. west of Washington, at an elevation of 4779 feet above the sea.

It was found necessary to organize under the Territorial Law of Colorado, before the land could be secured and held in trust, and for this purpose an Act of Incorporation of Union Colony of Colorado was framed, entered upon record and a Board of Trustees chosen to represent the interests of the members. Under this charter the Colony holds the exclusive right to construct ditches within the lands possessed, to build roads, to purchase and convey lands, and has other powers usually vested in corporate bodies. This movement, rendered necessary by the peculiar circumstances of the case, in a measure abrogated the powers held by the Executive Committee appointed in New-York. But the power of the latter body was virtually recognized by the new Board of Trustees and the two organizations worked in harmony with each other.

On the twenty-fifth day of April, the first sod was turned in the new town of Greeley. Mr. Meeker, in the interests of the Colony at once returned to New-York, to supervise the transportation of members to their new home, while General Cameron, as superintendent of the Colony remained on the ground to receive them as they arrived. Arrangements, and very satisfactory ones, were made with Col. John S. Loomis, President of the National Land Company, in reference to the forwardance of freight for Col-

onists and passage tickets were issued at greatly reduced rates; the agents of the company at all the principal cities in the East and West, and on the lines of the leading railroads were instructed to look after the interests and care for the comfort of those travelling under these tickets. It gives us great pleasure to place upon record our grateful appreciation of the attentions and courtesies of the officers and agents of the Land Company, from its active and efficient President down to its lowest agent. At Chicago, as the central point for Colonists, Mr. C. N. Pratt, general agent of the Company, was ever at his post of duty, imparting information, looking after the interests of the travellers, and cheering them forward on their way. Agents at all points on the route stood ready to receive and forward Colonists travelling under the protection of the company; and to strangers in a strange land (and some of them ladies travelling alone or with young children,) these attentions were particularly welcome and valuable.

In the early part of May a statement was published showing the quantity of land bought,—who from,—the amount paid, and the proposed division of land.

We quote from this circular, as follows:—

“Purchased from the Denver Pacific Railway Company, through the National Land Company, nine thousand three hundred and twenty-four and six hundredths acres, at a cost of thirty-one thousand and fifty-eight dollars and fifty-eight cents.

“Purchased from individuals two thousand five hundred and ninety-two and twenty-three hundredths acres, at an expense of twenty-seven thousand nine hundred and eighty-two dollars and thirty cents.”

“Paid preliminary fees for the occupation of sixty thousand acres of Government Land to the amount of nine hundred and thirty dollars.

“In addition to the above the Colony holds a contract with the Denver Pacific Railway to purchase at any time within three years, from May 1st, 1870, fifty thousand acres of land at prices varying from \$3 to \$4 per acre, with interest from date of contract. It will thus be observed that, though actually owning but about twelve thousand acres of land, the Colony controls, in addition, one hundred and eleven thousand acres of land, acknowledged to be the best in the Territory. with charters for ditches covering the entire area.”

An apportionment of lands was also made as follows: Town lots:—For business, 520, size, 25x190; for residence, 673, ranging in size from 50x190 to 200x190. Beside these there were reserved for Schools, Churches, Town Hall, Court House, Seminary and other public purposes, 277 lots. Members to be allowed to purchase a town lot for residence or business purposes, either or both, at the minimum price of fifty dollars for corner and twenty-five dollars for inside lots.

Farm lands were divided into plots from five to forty acres, and as high as 120 acres on certain conditions, according to distance from the town centre, each member to be entitled to one of these plots as he might select, for his colony certificate. The land to be furnished with water for irrigation and only liable to assessment for the cost of keeping the irrigating ditches in repair. The lands thus subdivided lying up and down the Cache-la-Poudre, on both sides of the river for several miles.

A contract was at once given out for Ditch No. 3, ten miles long, and capable of being extended two miles further; fifteen inches deep; average width, eight feet; carrying twenty-five hundred inches of water, and capable of irrigating five thousand acres, including the town site. By the 10th of June, this ditch was completed and water running through all the streets of the town. A Plaza or Square of ten acres was laid out in the centre of the town and two miniature lakes, one called Lunar and the other Auricular, from their respective shapes, constructed and filled with water. Trees, brought from the Phoenix Nurseries, at Bloomington, Illinois, were set out in the Plaza and through the public streets, and orders issued for the construction of a School House suitable for a primary school. To the north west of the town an island in the river gave ample ground for a public park, and this land, comprising about forty-eight acres was reserved and designated "Island Grove Park."

Meanwhile families and heads of families were arriving on the ground. The first member who slept on colony ground was Mr. J. F. Sanborn, who pitched his tent on the river bank east of the town, on April 18th; on the 19th of April, Mrs. Agnes A. G. Benson, the first lady member of the Colony, stepped on the soil of Greeley. On the 30th of the same month Mr. L. W. Teller of Mt. Kisco, N. Y. with a family of wife and five children arrived. At this time there was but one house on the ground, and from data kept we find that in a few days forty-two persons, of whom twelve were women, found lodgings in six small rooms in this one house.

But comfortable shelter was soon provided. Six tents were borrowed from Fort Russell, three purchased at Cheyenne, and a building, costing thirteen hundred and fifty dollars, was moved from Cheyenne and placed just west of the depot. It was dubbed *Hotel de Comfort*, and though now it is irreverently termed the Barracks, Castle Garden, and *Hotel dis Comfort*, at that time it was as an Elim with its palm trees and wells of water to the traveler over the Arabian Desert. It was an ark of refuge, a sure and safe abiding place, and never a day but there was room for one more, no matter how crowded its condition. Early in May the stream of active emigration set in; with some discouragements, it is true, for many and various were the difficulties to be contended with, and there were days when the shadows from the mountains to the west of the site of the town, seemed to rest upon the hopes, the hearts, the ambitions of the new comers. One can easily imagine the situation; the ground was perfectly unbroken for miles, and the winds of unnumbered centuries had blown off the light soil, leaving a gravelly coating over the surface not covered by grass or cacti. The grass was short and brown and presented to the eye none of its nutritious qualities. And the cacti, at that time had not its variegated blossoms to commend it to the eye, while its prickly armor in no way commended it to the touch.

General Cameron who was constantly on the ground looking after the welfare of the colonists, and whose broad shoulders bore without bending the weight of odium placed upon them by the dissatisfied, reports that one day sixty-two persons arrived, and two days thereafter eighty-three additional presented themselves. Hardly any of these brought with them provisions, tents, blankets or any of the necessities of life. They could not be protected from the cold winds or the colder night air. No ditches had been dug, no water was running and in all the town of Greeley there was but one well, and two unfinished, rough and impromptu buildings.

These were Greeley's dark days. Some there were who forgetting that it was the work of the colony to *create a*

city, expected one already built, with houses and stores, mills and factories, and all the adjuncts of a settled civilization. Disappointment set their teeth upon edge and kindled bitter feelings of animosity in their bosoms. Tongues wagged and not wisely nor well. Accusations of fraud, deception, were freely bruited about. The vocabulary of crime was ransacked, and no criminal whose heart was of the blackest type, received more opprobrium than the leaders of the colony movement, from the lips of these disappointed and dissatisfied ones. They came to colonize, but without waiting to investigate—to examine the location—to test the capabilities of the soil—they remained to curse only so long as the next train east delayed its coming. Then, shaking the dust of Greeley from their feet, they “went to their own place.”

Time passed; a survey was soon made, and locations chosen by those who, having ventured thus far, had sufficient wisdom to see that the experiment was but at its beginning, and that success lay at its ending. The top of the ladder was not to be reached at one bound, even in Colorado. One by one the rounds were to be trodden, and by feet made weary by the upward way.

But soon Ditch No. 3 was completed, and the water came dancing through the flumes like a ministering angel, (as indeed it was,) scattering blessings all along its path. It ran over the parched land, and blade and blossom awoke to a new beauty, and the birds sang their welcome early and late to the new-comers whose destiny had brought them to these late desolate but now blooming prairies. Trees were planted, and active, earnest, true-hearted men, women and children went to work with a spirit that deserved and achieved success. The cloud passed away; the sunshine took its place, and thenceforward cheered, warmed and lighted the hearts of all.

But before tracing further the history of the Colony, or presenting statistics of its present condition, it may be well to present a chapter upon the agricultural resources of the valley in which we have found a home, and to which we invite the attention of all who contemplate creating new homes on the slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

CHAPTER III.

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION.

Time was when these plains were designated the Great American Desert. There are books of geography yet in use in the schools of this territory, in which they are so described. And so they were to those who, having eyes, saw not.

But, as in the poem of the Sleeping Princess in the Woods, who waited but the coming of the Fortunate Prince, whose passionate kiss should awake her to life, and all about her to activity, so the slumbering Princess of the Plains but waited the coming of the Fairy Prince, the touch of whose magic wand should kindle into a beauty unknown before the charms lying hidden in her veiled bosom. And at the magic touch of water, lo! the powers lying dormant for unnumbered ages suddenly awoke, and from out the lap of nature flowed abundant evidence that these were fertile instead of sterile plains.

Irrigation is no new thing. To those accustomed to the rain-falls east of the Missouri river, it may become, at first, a power misapplied, because unknown; but adaptation to circumstances is one of the peculiarities of the American mind, and not for any length of time is there any "new thing under the sun."

Old in theory and practice, in the lands of the East, to this source must we trace the wonderful fertility of the valley of the Nile, whose narrow belt of 3,000 miles, extending through six degrees of latitude, for centuries supported a population so vast, that even China's countless hordes dwindle into insignificance. Not Egypt alone, nor China, but nearly all the lands of the Orient have availed themselves of this all-powerful adjunct to agriculture, and thus supported a population that would otherwise have depended upon distant countries for the necessities of existence, and so lost their main source of growth and strength; for agriculture is the true mother of the nations, and from her exhaustless bosom they receive the nourishment that sustains their life.

Before giving special information connected with the results of irrigation in and about Greeley this last summer, we desire to group together certain facts of general interest. We are indebted in the main for them to Wm. N. Byers, Esq., of the *News*, whose heart has been these many years in these highlands, whose home for twelve years past has been here, and whose able pen has done so much to develop its resources, encourage its settlement and cheer the hearts of those who come thousands of miles to build up new homes. Some very important statistics have also been culled from the able and exhaustive address of William R. Thomas, Esq., of the *News*, before the Territorial Agricultural Fair of 1869; and we also acknowledge our indebtedness to Gov. McCook's address in September of this year.

The agricultural area of Colorado is a little less than 18,000 square miles, comprising about 11,500,000 acres, all highly productive, but in the main requiring irrigation—"a savings bank crammed with riches since Noah's flood"—and ready, therefore, to honor drafts to an unlimited amount; for "irrigated land never wears out," as the experience of eastern nations testifies. There are three main sections of this agricultural area, each well supplied—one by the Arkansas, one by the Platte, and the third by the Rio Grande—with water; and from their tributaries branch valleys, whose fertility Eastern farmers may dream of, but never realize, in the sterile, overworked soils of the Atlantic coast.

Colorado vegetables are now sold east of the Missouri river, and flour and grain reach all the States. The crops of the current year have been carefully estimated as follows: Wheat, 750,000 bushels; corn, 700,000 bushels; oats and barley, 650,000 bushels; vegetables and potatoes, 500,000 bushels;—while the hay and dairy product will have a market value of not less than four millions of dollars. Ninety-seven bushels of wheat have been raised on one acre of land on the South Platte, within forty miles of Greeley. Oats have reached the same number of bushels to the acre; and Governor McCook is our authority for

the statement that 250 bushels of onions have been raised on *half* an acre. These, of course, are exceptional cases and the result of high cultivation; but the average of crops may thus be stated: Wheat, 30 bushels; oats, 55; corn, 30; potatoes, 250; onions, 300; beans, 30; Ruta Baga turnips, 30 tons; beets, 30 tons. These figures may be relied upon as being, if anything, *below* the average.

In this connection, we may observe that farmers here have no difficulty in turning the soil. Two horses or a pair of cattle plow the ground with the greatest ease, and two acres can be plowed by one man in a single day.

A few words in relation to beets. The growth of sugar beets here is simply enormous. The soil seems peculiarly adapted to their cultivation, and hundreds of acres could be profitably grown if some far-seeing and enterprising capitalist would but invest a few spare thousands of dollars in the erection of a beet sugar mill. Here we have all the essential elements of success. Soil and climate are favorable; there would be an abundance of supply, and a home market ready to absorb all that could be produced. What seems to have been a failure at Chatworth, Illinois, in Greeley would be a magnificent success!

At the Denver Fair, this year, turnips were on exhibition, and curiosity impelled us to measure the largest; it was *forty-two* inches in circumference. Cabbages weighing fifty pounds were too common for especial mention; and we could easily credit the story of the prudent housekeeper, who sent her child to market for the smallest head he could find, and he came home bending under the weight of a fourteen-pounder, having searched vainly for one of less weight.

That grapes will thrive, we had evidence—some choice Isabellas were on exhibition—and that small fruits will flourish is beyond a doubt. We have seen with our own eyes an acre of Wilson strawberries yielding eighteen hundred quarts of the largest and finest quality of fruit. The time will come, and that in the not far-distant future, when vast establishments for canning fruit will be scattered over the Territory; and the berries of Colorado

be the delight of the epicure and the never-failing resource of the careful housewife, whose "sweetmeat" days will be among the events of the past.

Farming, of course, on account of the lateness of arrival, could not be extensively carried on about Greeley. Even vegetable gardening, to a great extent, was impeded and delayed by the late supply of water. But the result of rough turning the prairie sod, even under these discouraging circumstances, was surprising. We have seen radishes allowed to grow as specimens on the town lot of E. W. Gurley, Esq., measuring twenty-eight inches in circumference and thirty-one inches long. Potatoes have been grown fifty tubers to one stalk of a size that might be termed medium, having been planted late in July. Potatoes on the lot of Captain David Boyd have yielded an average of one hundred and forty bushels to the acre. Beets, carrots, salads, cabbages, tomatoes, turnips, squashes, corn (as sweet and toothsome, tender and succulent as any ever eaten in the east), beans—in fact, in our wonderfully prolific soil there is no vegetable that will not grow and yield an hundred fold as a reward for the labors of the agriculturist. Sweet potatoes, too, can be grown here, as we know, having, through the courtesy of Mr. J. H. Pinkerton, eaten some very fine ones raised on the St. Vrain, a few miles back of Greeley.

But even irrigation is not a *necessity* in our fertile valley. There are bottom lands that have been cultivated this year by ranchemen, in the vicinity of the town, where no water, save what has fallen from the heavens, has been used; and vegetables of all kinds, and of infinite productiveness, have been raised. Early in the summer season our entire supply came from this source, and it is an undeniable fact, that the small grains can be grown here successfully without one inch of irrigating water being used.

Thousands of strawberry plants have been set this fall, and after next season this luscious fruit, averaging seventy-five cents per quart in Denver this present season, will be within the reach of all, while hundreds of crates will find ready market along the line of the Union Pacific and

the Kansas Pacific, reaching even the St. Louis and the Omaha markets; and we have faith that the day is not far distant when we shall rival California in our grapes, plums, cherries, apricots and pears.

Of stock raising, we have but space to touch briefly. The vast ranges are too well known. This and the neighboring territories of Wyoming, Montana and Utah must, for generations to come, supply and control the beef, mutton, wool, hide, cheese, butter and horse markets of the United States, and simply because they can produce these articles cheaper and better than any other portion of our country. The percentage of loss is less than wintering in the States on corn and hay, and here we feed nothing, herding stock on the dry gama or bunch grass of the plains; the air is so fine that these grasses cure on the ground, losing none of their nourishment, and the climate is so mild and genial—a very Italian climate—that stock can range and feed all the winter, and keep in excellent condition. Alexander Majors, of Nebraska City, late of the freighting firm of Majors, Russell & Waddell, giving his experience, sums up the whole matter as follows: “I say, without hesitation, all the country west of the Missouri river is one vast pasture, affording unequalled summer and winter pasturage, where sheep, horses and cattle can be raised with only the cost of herding.”

CHAPTER IV.

MOUNTAIN SCENERY, CLIMATOLOGY, FLORA, &C., &C.

We are indebted to Mr. E. Fussell, artist, for the accompanying graphic description of Estes Park, and the mountain scenery in the immediate vicinity. Mr. Fussell has executed some very fine pictures this present season, and during the winter will finish some mountain scenes, sketches of which were taken during one of the journeys described in his letter.

To the tourist who wishes to start from Greeley to view the beauties of the mountains there are two places that offer great advantages, Estes Park and the Great Canyon of the Big Thompson. There is not at present much accommodation for such, but those will not be found wanting to supply it when needed.

A line of stages is projected from Greeley to Estes Park next summer, but for the trip to the Big Canyon private conveyances must yet be depended upon. The distance is some fifty-five miles; the first part of the route lies in the Valley of the Cache-la-Poudre with its picturesque groves of cottonwood. Seen near sunset on such days as are frequent during the summer season, this part of the drive brings forcibly to mind those lines of Burns :

“ The winds blew hollow frae the hill,
By fits the sun's departing beam
Shone brightly on the yellow woods
That waved by Sugar's winding stream.”

And it is well to take a ^A last, long, lingering look” at these yellow woods that their image may remain upon the mind to relieve the tedium of the long drive across the plains. These treeless plains are the thorns to the roses that are to come. Here, too, we are struck with the deceptive appearances of distances. You are willing to assert upon oath, if needs be, that yon bluff is but half a mile off, but unfortunately you find that many undreamed of little valleys, gullies and mounds intervene; but steady-jogging horseflesh in good time overcome all these and bring us to the foothills—those peculiar abrupt upheavals of stratified rock, on all prominent points of which may be found old Indian hiding places or lookouts; now, since “poor Lo!” has been forced to search for pastures new, of no use save as matters of curiosity. These foothills have a gradual slope towards the east; but towards the west are very abrupt, especially near the top, where there is generally a perpendicular cliff, ranging from a few feet to two or three hundred. They give ample opportunity for those who wish to prepare themselves for the sterner duties of climbing steeper grades, and also of learning something of the

power there is in gravitation by the simple process of prying huge boulders from their place and letting them roll thundering into the valley below. This for pleasure-seekers ; but for seekers after the truths of geology, these bluff heights offer rare and peculiar advantages. Here are to be seen strata upon strata broken off by some strong convulsion of nature, exposing the layers that the mighty sea of the olden time has made to the view of roving mortals so plainly that it scarcely needs an Agazziz to read them.

The old red sandstone is the most conspicuous to the casual observer, giving its hue to all the country round.

There are two Canyons on the Big Thompson, separated by a narrow, picturesque valley ; the lower and lesser one is peculiar, inasmuch as it runs through a cleft in granite rock, which overlies red sandstone. The sides are steep and abrupt, in many cases being perpendicular from the the water's edge. The adventurous climber may from either end reach to nearly the same point, but there he will find his onward way checked, and be forced to climb to the top. Rocky forms of the grandest description, checkered and stained by the exposures of many centuries are on all sides, while whistling eddying little rapids make the place one in a thousand for those who enjoy the beautiful in nature.

The larger canyon is longer, with sides steeper and higher, and in many places impassable, except in winter, when the frozen cascades make the granduer grander, and at the same time a secure bridge by which to round the otherwise impassable promontories. All parts of the canyon may be seen in summer by climbing over the mountains on either side and down ; a rather severe ordeal for one who is not used to it, but one that is amply repaid by ever varying and ever new forms of rock and rippling, dashing water, with here and there rugged pine or spruce set in some rocky crevice and adding greatly to the picturesqueness of the whole.

Those who come here expecting to see the picturesque nooks, the overhanging trees, the verdure that makes the

charm of the eastern mountain scenery will be disappointed. The Rocky Mountain scenery has a character peculiarly its own; it is of the rocks, rocky. There are trees, it is true, but the mountain sides are steep, and the trees generally not of the largest, so that the top of the lower scarcely reaches the root of the higher; thus a mass of foliage is not seen, except on the brow of hills and level places between. But the rocks themselves are of so many forms and so many colors that this want is not scarcely felt.

In the rocks near the water's edge is seen the power of rushing water in the smooth polished surfaces, in the wearing away of the softer portions, leaving many furrows. In many places you mark the course of an old-time eddy in a semi-circular abrasion in the solid rock. In one place these water-marks are to be seen thirty or forty feet above the present water-level, showing that at some time there has been some obstruction in the narrow gap below. From the mountain to the light of the Canyon, a fine view can be had of the valley below, and to the westward, of Bald Mountain with its dreamy ghosts of forests that are no more, of Storm Peak rearing its rocky front before the snowy range, of James Peak its snowy head towards the clouds as if asserting its right to be considered one of the chosen ones—and indeed it lacks but little of being as high as its better known rival, Long's Peak, while in the massiveness of its surroundings, the mountain cannot surpass it.

Fishermen and hunters have followed up the creek to Estes Park, but at present the only available route to that place is by a trail running from St. Vrain's Canyon. Up hill and down hill the road leads, but not as the old roads wind "Now to the church and now to the mill"—such things are left far behind; it is rather a blind following of the old deer trails, for now we are entering upon the favorite haunts of the Great Elk, whose branching horns may be seen on every side whitened by rain and sun. Estes Park is situated at the base of Long's Peak, from which it extends in a northeasterly direction about ten

miles. The Park is divided by a mountain that is waiting for a name into two sections; through the northernmost one the Big Thompson finds its way; this stream is said to abound in that finest of fish, the speckled trout, but like all our wild western creations, his education has been a little neglected. He won't bite an artificial fly. Fortunately a substitute and the one that he understands is generally near at hand in the shape of a grasshopper.

The tracks of elk and deer may also be seen on every side, which generally is as exciting as if the animal itself were there, for it is the old question answered here—the pursuit is nearly as pleasant as the possession.

Here are opportunities for any one desirous of naming points, lakes and canyons innumerable. There is Mount Olympus with its rocky front looking as sternly severe as Jove himself might have looked, almost a solid rock whose summit is eight thousand feet above the sea's level. There to the right is Black Canyon, with its sombre shading of trees and its bold sharp sentinels of rock guarding its entrance. To the left is seen Lily Mountain, twelve thousand feet high, with its bold face looking frowningly at Long's Peak, as if angry because that mountain dared to hold its head six thousand feet higher. And then at the foot of Long's Peak is a wonderful chasm with a perpendicular side running clear up to nearly the top of the Peak. Then there are the lakes that duplicate the mountains and rocks on either side. There is the little mountain brook half hidden among the massive rocks it tumbles over, offering a cool retreat from the heats of summer, and at every step a pleasing picture. There are valleys branching off from the main park that would undoubtedly amply repay exploration in the many new and varied forms they might present; there are detached rocks of huge size up and down which the Rocky Mountain sheep jumps and runs with a swiftness that forbids pursuit.

There are many other points that might be enumerated, but these must suffice. A word to the wise is sufficient, and all these charms of scenery and beauties of nature are within two days drive of Greeley. "These we have always with us," and they will remain "a joy forever."

Touching the flora of the Valley of the Cache-la-Poudre, we present the accompanying article from the accomplished pen of A. J. WILBER, Esq. :

In the early days of Greeley, when cattle paths were all the paths we had, and we could shoot antelope and rabbit from our cabin doors, the new comer's first impressions were most certain to be of the flora ; and the conclusion was quite as certainly reached that the cactus was at least the tyrant if not the type of this flora.

Later, the splendor of their bloom went far to compensate for their former ugliness. The cacti have all the brilliant colors, though none of the more delicate. The round one is the most beautiful, with scarlet blossoms, sometimes a dozen clustered in one mass and lasting a long time ; finally succeeded by the fruit, which, with the form of the plant, make it as interesting as before. When the fruit ripens, it has a close relation to the gooseberry in taste. Not so with the prickly pear cactus. The fruit of this species is so poor one must be very hungry to eat it, but its flowers are more various and equally beautiful.

Long ere the cacti begin to show their beauty there are little gems that rival anything to be seen in the east, in garden or out, and would no doubt produce a pleasant sensation there. Two of the *overgracae*, or evening primrose family are delightful for their sweetness and modesty. One is the delicate pink flower which chooses the driest situations, and by its fragrance puts to flight the supposition that the flowers of the plains are without odor. The other is the lovely white flower that borders all the ditches. It sprang up early, and when irrigation began in June had nearly finished blossoming, but at the advent of water on our streets, they welcomed it with a new shower of blossoms which they have renewed daily ever since ; while their comrades on the dry plain have long been sleeping. I am sure one plant has borne over four hundred blossoms this year. The seed pods are hidden under the leaves by the ever-recovering stems. The *malvacea* has a representative more beautiful than the hollyhock, though only four or five inches high. It is found along the edge of the

overland stage route, but rejoices in cultivation. There are several evergreen herbs of rare beauty; one with its delicate flower is beautiful for borders. The *euphorbiaceæ* is represented by several species; the most noticeable is the "snow on the mountain," with its broad white leaves. A *portulacaceæ* resembles a huge purslain, and has a bunch of white blossoms resembling the snow-ball. Another with white tiny blossoms has seed-pods that look at a distance like a pink rose. Two species of spider-flower—*cleome*—cultivated in the gardens east of the Mississippi, grow everywhere, sometimes six feet high. The Spanish bayonet is the most conspicuous plant.

All these and many more flowering plants have their home on "the barren plains," and grow as if they love to dot it with their freshness and beauty.

My acquaintance with the flora of this vicinity is by no means so complete as I wish it to be. So far, all the plants with which I have become familiar find a place in the orders, and even the genii of the flora east of the Mississippi; the difference being confined entirely to the species. A text-book on botany for our schools here would require, then, merely an addition to the species of the Manual used in the schools and colleges east of the Mississippi.

I do not know that there is a text-book suited to this region. Though not embodied in a work, the plants probably have all been examined by scientific men. Their classification and names could, doubtless, be gathered from the United States Survey of the Pacific Railroad, Frémont's Explorations and other sources.

In May, the river bottoms became bright with fresh soft grass. The cottonwood put on the richest green that nature has in her dye room. The air was filled with fragrance, the breath of the bursting leaf and flower-buds of the sweet briar; later they were resplendent with bloom, and now with bright red buds, which, mingled with the white wax berry, produce a fine contrast, and the clumps of green ash and soft maple make the whole seem a garden of rare richness. Near by, the wild plum and cherry,

with hazel and willow, compose thickets over which the virgin's bower—*clematis*—loves to throw its beautiful white spray; all having a fine background in the small cottonwoods whose leaves show all of autumn's tints. The wild hop and many other vines tangle the whole into a mass in which the rabbits hide. Thickets of wild sunflower furnish shelter and food for grouse. Among the open growth the beaver has made his mark, and gone where he may live with the savage, the white man being too grasping for him. Here are the stumps of many trees he has cut—one over two feet in diameter.

But this wildness is the exception, the rule of this flora being to produce the effect of a great landscape garden, where the outlines of the hills are toned down, and reduced to rule and beauty by the gray, the brown and the green of the everywhere prevailing grass—the rich grass of the plain, at present its most valuable production.

This will please the reflective, loving soft beauty; but if the mind is attuned to wildness, seek the mountains, where the small plants, the vines, the deciduous and evergreen trees cluster and cling around the huge rocks and make fitting home for mountain lion or panther, or anon leave mountains of stone in desolate grandeur.

In reference to the climate, mineral productions, and other minor matters, we extract the following from an article on the colony, published early in April in the *Rocky Mountain News*:

The temperature in the warm days of summer ranges from eighty-four to ninety-six degrees above zero in the shade. The sun shines very warm some days, but in the shade the air is always pleasant, fresh and cool. Sultry, hot nights are unknown. In winter, the common range of the thermometer is from thirty to sixty degrees above zero, but in most winters the temperature at two or three periods and for one, two or three nights at each time, falls below zero. The prevailing winds, the year round, are from the northwest, ranging all the way between north and west. Northeast winds bring snow in winter and rain

in spring and summer. There are occasional wind storms, but no tornadoes. Fogs are unknown. The average fall of rain in spring and summer, from the most reliable data at hand is six inches; of snow in winter and spring, from twenty-five to thirty inches, giving five inches of water, and a total for the year of eleven inches. The first snow usually comes in October (this year October 16th), and the last in April or the first of May. There is seldom more than three or four inches on the ground at a time, though two or three falls of ten inches each have occurred in the last eleven years. Rain comes in showers through April, May and June, and occasionally in July and August, after which there is seldom any rain until spring. Rain never falls in the winter months. Owing to the firmness of the surface soils, roads seldom get unpleasantly muddy or dusty. For natural excellence as highways they are doubtless the best in the world. The best evidence that late spring frosts do not kill fruits is the fact that the native wild fruits never fail to produce full crops.

As regards health, Colorado is far above the average of "healthful countries," so called. The invigorating air gives remarkable tone and elasticity to the nervous system. In that respect none other is known to excel it. Agues and other miasmatic diseases are unknown. Asthma is quickly cured. Pulmonary diseases and bronchitis never originate here, and unless firmly seated are greatly relieved or entirely cured by a change hither. A long list of diseases, to which females are peculiarly liable, are greatly mitigated in their severity. There is nothing that can be termed a "prevailing disease of the country."

Touching mineral productions—sandstone may be found in the vicinity. Lime or plaster is found in the higher lands adjacent to the town and has been used for building. Coal has not been developed as yet in veins of sufficient depth to justify the working, but the new road in contemplation to Boulder will bring us in direct communication with the mining district. Along the foot of the mountains, twenty miles west of Greeley, and bordering on the lands belonging to the colony, there is abundance of iron—consisting

of hematite, bog and magnetic ores—coal, gypsum, limestone, freestone and granite, are in close proximity. It is also well known that the mountains pierced by the Cache-la-Poudre abound in rich mines of copper and silver. Specimens have been on exhibition in the Colony office during the summer, furnished by Judge Sherwood, of Fort Collins.

As regards timber, there are inexhaustible supplies from thirty to sixty miles west along the Cache-la-Poudre in the mountains. It consists of white, yellow, black and pitch pine, white, yellow and red fir, spruce and cedar. It can be floated down the stream, and Ditch No. 1 is to be so constructed as to allow the floating of millions of logs down into the interior of the farming lands of the colony.

Of beasts, birds and fishes there are native to the country and upon the plains, antelope, deer, foxes, badgers, prairie dogs, rabbits and a number of smaller animals. To the mountains, elk, white and black tail deer, antelope, grizzly, cinnamon and black bear, mountain sheep, mountain lions, wolves, foxes, martins, mink, mountain badger, beaver, weasel, cony, &c., &c. Birds are abundant—all the water fowls, four or five variety of grouse, including the prairie hen, sage hen and ptarmigan and a great variety of singing birds, including lark, robin, mocking-bird, blue-bird, oriole, thrush and blackbird. Quails have been introduced the past winter. Of fish there are trout, river whitefish, suckers and a number of others, and there are wholesome territorial laws protecting at certain seasons fishes, birds and game animals.

We might add that our immediate markets will be Denver, fifty-two miles south; Cheyenne, fifty-four miles north; both reached by the Denver Pacific Railway, and the mining regions and towns of Gilpin, Clear Creek, and Boulder counties, from fifty to one hundred miles distant, over good wagon roads or by rail to Denver, and thence by wagon for thirty-five to fifty miles; as well as all the towns on the line of the Union Pacific Railroad. The development of the gold, silver and other mines—as yet in their infancy—will always secure a reliable and a growing

market, which will doubtless test to its full capacity, if not entirely outstrip, not only the agricultural facilities of the Colony, but of the entire territory.

CHAPTER V.

PRESENT CONDITION OF UNION COLONY.

From the month of May down to the present date, the growth of Greeley has been steadily progressive. Scarcely a day has passed but some member of the colony has arrived on the ground, selected his lots and lands, and set about erecting a home for himself and his family. Some, unable at present to remain, have located their claim and gone East, intending to return in the spring with their families. By May, 1871, there is not a doubt but that the full number of colonists holding certificates of membership will be on the ground, their present and their future interests all fully identified with Greeley. Success, therefore, seems assured. We have no soil to "subdue" in the sense generally used by Western pioneers. We have but to ask, and the fruitful earth, waiting this call for centuries, yields from her abundance more than we ask. The wand of Fortunatus is at our command. We have but to wave it, and gather in "the abundant harvest of reward."

As can easily be imagined, the current of our prosperity has not always run smooth. Twice have the waters been troubled by the spirits of discontent, disaffection and doubt. But the deep under-current of popular sentiment dormant so long as danger did not menace, has ever proven able to guide the good ship UNION through the storm that swept around it.

Late in the month of May last, the first disaffection came to the surface in a motion requesting the then acting officers to resign. Prompt came the response, and on

June 13th, an election was held for a new Executive Committee. It resulted in the choice of a majority of the old board to serve in the new, including the old President, Vice-President and Secretary, by a vote so decisive that the growlers were completely routed, "horse, foot and dragoons." The strength of the colonial organization was tested, and it resulted in showing by conclusive proof that we were not a "myth" only, but had "a local habitation and a name."

During the month of June a Board of Education was appointed at a colony meeting, to provide for the educational needs of the town. It consisted of Nathan C. Meeker, J. H. Pinkerton, William E. Pabor, A. J. Wilber, John R. Long. A subscription list was at once started, as it was found that the school, for the summer session at least, must be supported by voluntary contributions. Early in July a small building, furnished by the colony, and capable of holding about fifty scholars, was formally opened, with Mrs. V. R. Guiney, of Urbano, Ohio, as teacher. Her report, submitted to the Board of Education at the close of the summer session ending September 29th, showed as follows: Number of scholars enrolled, fifty-four; average daily attendance, thirty-seven; number of days taught, sixty-two. Branches taught: Reading, Writing, Spelling, Geography, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Object Lessons, Mental Exercises. We quote: "It will be seen by this statement that the daily attendance was large. We labored under many difficulties in organizing a school, from the fact that the children were strangers, bringing a variety of text books, and for weeks we had but two Spellers, six different series of Readers, and as many different Arithmetics and English Grammars. From such a medley of confusion, we succeeded in establishing order and good feeling among the children, and we trust also in obtaining the approval of the parents."

On the first of September two prizes for the best improvement in reading were offered by Wm. E. Pabor, of the Board of Education. One, a copy of the "Swiss Family Robinson," in words of one syllable, to be awarded

to the best reader under eight years of age. 'The other, a copy of Webster's High School Dictionary, to the best reader over eight and under fourteen years of age. At the close of the session the first prize was awarded to Miss Nellie Ruthven, and the second to Master Charles W. Pinkerton.

As regards educational facilities during the winter season, we can state that arrangements have been made for the establishment of three schools, to be supported by a county school fund. These will come under the supervision of the regular District School Board of Weld County, assisted by an advisory board selected by the Executive Council of the colony, and will amply supply the needs of the town during the winter. A private school for youth of both sexes has been established by Mr. Edgar Strunk, late a principal of one of the public schools in New York City. In the spring we shall probably be formed into a separate school district, and will then elect our own board of directors. An enumeration taken October 1st showed one hundred and seventy-nine children in Greeley between the ages of five and twentyone years. We add in this connection that there are three reserved plots of land set aside for school buildings, in addition to plots for seminary and other educational purposes.

June 18th, 1870, will be memorable as the natal day of the first child born in the new settlement. The happy parents were Herbert and Agnes Dickinson, and the child was appropriately named HORACE GREELEY DICKINSON. It is understood that the Board of Trustees, who stood sponsors to the young babe, deeded a town residence lot in trust to his parents, for the benefit and use of the new comer.

The first Fourth of July in Greeley, of course, was appropriately celebrated. Every heart beat high and fast with enthusiasm. A committee of arrangements prepared the following programme :

OFFICERS OF THE DAY--President: N. C. Meeker. Grand Marshal: General R. A. Cameron.

At sunrise the National flag to be floated from the pole on the town plaza.

On the arrival of the excursion trains from Denver and Cheyenne a proces-

sion to be formed, headed by the Ninth Infantry Band from Fort Russell, and marched to Island Grove Park, where the following exercises are to take place:

Opening Prayer by Rev. Wm. Baxter.

Singing, "My country, 'tis of thee," by the Greeley Glee Club.

Reading Declaration of Independence by Hon. E. C. Monk.

Music by the Band.

National Ode, written by William E. Pabor. Read by James G. Cooper.

Singing, "Star-Spangled Banner," by the Glee Club.

Oration by General E. M. Lee, of the *Wyoming Tribune*.

Music by the Band.

Doxology by the entire company.

Benediction by Rev. Wm. H. Schell.

The above programme was very generally carried out. Large numbers of visitors were with us, and the day was truly a *gala* day for Greeley. In the evening there was a gorgeous display of fireworks, and a ball concluded the entertainment.

Through July and August an era of quiet enabled the officers of the colony to conduct their business in good order and to the satisfaction of all concerned. Colonists generally engaged in cultivating the soil and constructing houses for themselves and their families. But early in September some discontent arose in reference to the non-appearance of a report upon the finances of the colony; and at a meeting held for that purpose, a Committee of Examination was appointed to audit all the accounts of the colony, and report in full its financial condition. The meeting named as such committee: William E. Pabor, E. T. Nichols, David Boyd, James H. Johnson, William Foote. One week of careful and thorough research enabled the committee to present a detailed statement of the affairs of the colony. The accounts were found to be substantially correct; exhibits were prepared, showing the amounts paid for specific purposes, and a very satisfactory report presented. We quote: Cash assets to date of examination, \$100,160.14. Cash payments: Original cost of land, \$61,882.68; survey of land, \$1,804.15; cost of Ditch No. 3, \$5,966.24; cost of bridges, \$263.59; survey of Ditch No. 2, \$453.67; fuel, shelter and sundries, \$3,125.31; expense account to July 9th, \$1,198.39; cost of town survey, \$762.45; town improvements, \$2,557.05;

tree account, \$1,490.90; Town Hall, \$1500; New-York general expense account, \$2,595.41; Greeley general expense account, \$3,819.38; sundries, \$395.65. An inventory of colony property, aside from the lands still owned, showed in favor of the colony to the amount of \$3,640.00. The finances of the colony at the date of this writing (October 25th) show a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of \$9,038.66. Amount due from colonists for town lots and water rights attached to eighty acre tracts, and payable between date and April 5th, 1871, \$34.985. From this must be deducted the cost of building Ditch No. 2, the contract for which, in thirteen sections, amounting to twenty-six miles; was given out about August 27th, at an estimated cost of \$20,000. This ditch, capable of irrigating some fifty thousand acres of land, is progressing rapidly, and under contract to be finished by January 1st, 1871.

During the month of September, the second "upheaving of the waters" occurred in the history of the colony. A movement, originally organized to place the Board of Trustees in possession of its legal rights, as defined by the Act of Incorporation, and make the Executive Committee an advisory and initiatory body, passed out of the hands of those initiating it, and during a period of excitement resulted in the passage of resolutions calling upon the Board of Trustees and the members of the Executive Committee both to resign. This each promptly did, and a new election, held October 5th, resulted in the choice of the present Board of Trustees and the Executive Council of twelve; four of the latter body sitting in joint session with the former. These now act in harmony with each other.

The statistics that follow are compiled from the official records of the colony, and therefore, at this date (October 25th), are authentic and reliable. Persons abroad who design visiting or locating here will see at a glance the prospect before them, and can act accordingly.

Business lots in town.....	520
Resident ".....	673

Reserved for churches, schools, town hall, seminary, court house and other public purposes, 277.

Of business lots, none remain unlocated. That is to say, they are all held on certificates by members of the colony. All claims not improved by April 5th, 1871, lapse back to the colony on refunding the amount originally paid for membership. On some of these a business lot may have been taken, and eventually be thrown open to those who have not secured one.

Of resident lots, sixty-three are unlocated, and therefore open to new comers. These comprise all the lots proper in the town of Greeley not taken up. They are mainly in the east and north section of the town, and are desirable locations for residence.

Of outlying tracts yet open for selection, there are as follows :

13 blocks of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres each.

56 plots of 5 acres each.

85 " 10 "

23 " 20 "

21 " 40 "

to be taken, one on each certificate of membership.

Of government and railroad lands under Ditch No. 2, now in process of construction, there are open to colonists under certain specified conditions the following :

6 lots of 10 acres each.

21 " 20 "

59 " 40 "

101 " 80 "

We desire to call the special attention of all who contemplate casting in their future lot with us, to the desirableness of the lands to be irrigated by this ditch. So many thousands of acres of a quality unsurpassed in the world in one location, present an opportunity seldom offered to farmers. A town market at home, and quick railroad communication east and west, these farming lands can be made the homes of hundreds of thriving families.

Stock, too, can run at large and have an unlimited range of pasture over and outside this ditch.

In addition to the above, the Board of Trustees hold a charter for Ditch No. 1 capable of irrigating over 200,000 acres. These lands are government and railroad lands, and are actually controlled by the colony.

If other evidences of growth are needed than those we have already given, we call attention to facts and figures such as these.

There are built, or in process of building, in the town and immediate vicinity, three hundred and fifty-two houses, from one-story adobe, or humble frame, to the more pretentious cottage or mansion, including several blocks of adobe, with brick fronts. A bank building of concrete is occupied by a firm doing a successful business, and there are seventeen stores of various kinds; also three blacksmith and wagon shops, three lumber yards, one printing office and one livery stable. November 16th the first number of the Greeley *Tribune*, edited and published by N. C. Meeker, made its appearance.

The amount of freight received here from May 6th to October 15th foots up nine million eight hundred and fifty-three thousand nine hundred and eighty-eight pounds, on which has been paid \$25,925.82. The number of cars average, both unloaded and despatched, fifty per month. For these statistics we are indebted to E. H. Abbott, Esq., freight agent of the Denver Pacific Railway at this place.

The two lumber yards transacting business in this place show an exhibit of sales of lumber amounting to one million one hundred and ninety-two thousand feet. To this must be added a large amount of lumber brought from the mountains by private parties.

The colony hall is in Exchange Place, and was projected during the turbulent times of the month of May; it is one of the best structures in the town, and the upper part of the building, by a contract between its owner and the Board of Trustees, is held by them for the sole use of the colony for two years, when it reverts back to the owner under certain specified conditions.

There are in the town of Greeley two of the best water powers in the country—one of them capable of driving both a woolen and a grist mill or a paper mill ; the other, one of either ; while above the town there are innumerable water powers only awaiting the advent of enterprise, ability and capital to set the wheels of industry in motion. All along the banks of the Cache-la-Poudre we hope soon to see the evidence that our internal resources are in active development, and to hear the hum of traffic resounding up and down the mountain road.

As an evidence of the literary tendencies of our community, we record the fact that 115 New York *Weekly Tribunes* are taken ; 63 Rocky Mountain *News*, 35 Colorado *Tribunes*, and over 200 miscellaneous papers, published all over the country. The highest number of letters sent out from the post-office in any one day was 253, and \$312 worth of stamps were sold during the quarter ending Oct. 1st. This would give about ten thousand dollars for that period. We have a post-office that would put to the blush towns that number thrice the years that we do months. It has 350 private boxes, of which two-thirds are rented. Two mails are received and sent each day in the week to all points of the country.

Our railroad communication with the East, now that the Kansas Pacific is completed to Denver, is now complete. We have choice of a northern and southern route to and from the East, and a person can step in the cars here, and in four days land in New-York city, making but three changes of cars on the route. The Denver Pacific, connecting at one end with the Union Pacific, and at the other with the Kansas Pacific, thus gives us ready and prompt communication with all points. We will also soon be a junction town, the new road projected from Pine Bluffs to Ralston, six miles below Golden City, being a continuation of the Colorado Central, striking Greeley on the south. This road will be of immense advantage to us, giving us close connection with the coal mines at Boulder and also a market in the mining regions for the agricultural products of our glorious valley.

As may not be generally known to the public, the Union Colony was founded on temperance principles. The first call of Mr. Meeker stated that those with whom he would be willing to associate *must* be temperance men. Experience has shown us how difficult it is to wholly ward off the insidious wiles of the tempter; we have had some trouble, but the policy of the colony has been so determined, and its members have been so prompt and efficient in carrying out the principles embodied in our constitution, that we fear no danger; the town of Greeley is now and is to be a temperance town. In each and every deed given for land there is inserted this clause, "that it is expressly agreed between the parties hereto, that intoxicating liquors shall never be manufactured, sold or given away in any place of public resort as a beverage, on said premises; and that in case any one of these shall be broken or violated, this conveyance, and everything herein contained shall be null and void."

A stringent policy has been adopted in reference to the sale of liquors for medicinal purposes, and no druggist is allowed to dispense such as medicine without authority and under strict regulations. The Executive Council appoints such agents as seem desirable, and none are allowed to keep even the "bitters" so *popular* for medicinal purposes elsewhere. These are wholly interdicted.

CHAPTER VI.

CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, SOCIETIES, &C., &C.

Of societies, churches and kindred organizations, there are no lack, as will be seen from the lists we append:

METHODIST CHURCH.—Thirty-five members. Organized August. Dr. J. S. Scott, Class leader: E. Annise, Steward. Regular services in Colony Hall. Rev. Mr. Brooks, Circuit Preacher. Church lot 100x190, located on Pine

street, between Jackson and Grant streets, donated by the colony.

BAPTIST CHURCH.—Society only, organized July 24th. E. J. Nichols, Russell Fisk, J. F. Sanborn, Trustees. Rev. Samuel Brown, of Loda, Ill., to assume pastoral charge in the spring of 1871. Church lot 100x190, located on Chestnut street, between Monroe and Adams streets, donated by the colony.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Ten members. Organized August 21st. L. W. Teller, Presiding Elder. L. Hanna, J. Lemmon, Harvey Platt, Deacons. Services in Colony Hall. Church lot, 100x190, located on Spruce street, between Monroe and Adams streets, donated by the colony.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—Thirty-seven members. Organized September 1st. J. L. Dunham, Moderator. C. L. Nettleton, Stephen Spencer, Deacons. William E. Pabor, Clerk and Treasurer. Services in Colony Hall. Church lot, 100x190, located on Chestnut street, between Monroe and Adams, donated by the colony.

FIRST COVENANTER SOCIETY OF GREELEY.—Organized in September, 1870. Members of the Society, 40. J. H. Pinkerton, Samuel Ferris, John Adams, Charles McElvey, J. S. Simmon, Trustees. Church lot, 100x190 on Spruce street, between Jefferson and Madison, deeded by the colony.

OCCIDENTAL LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.—Fifty members. Preliminary arrangements have been made for obtaining a charter and organizing a lodge. A hall has been leased for a lodge room, and a city lot donated by John R. Long, Esq., on which to erect a masonic temple. F. L. Child has been elected Master. E. W. Gurley, senior Warden. Henry Lee, Junior Warden.

UNION CHOIR.—Organized June 20th. 27 members. Leader, J. L. Dunham; Organist, E. L. Dunham. Twelve lady members; ten sopranos, two altos, ten bass and five tenors. The choir meets weekly for practice, use the Jubilate of Dr. Emerson, and conduct the choral services for the three denominations, holding regular meetings—Methodist, Congregational, Presbyterian.

GOOD TEMPLARS.—La Poudre Lodge No. 29, of Greeley Independent Order of Good Templars, instituted August 22d. P. S. Milliner, Special Deputy. Eighty-four members. Meets weekly with the following officers: F. L. Childs, W. C. T.; Mrs. E. B. Annis, W. V. T.; W. W. Prugh, W. S.; F. M. Babcock, W. F. S.; Miss Amanda Hanna, W. T.; S. B. Wright, W. M.; Jno. Clark, W. C.; Miss Mattie Baxter, W. I. G.; James Lackey, W. A. G.; Miss Fanny Guiney, W. A. S.; Mrs. B. F. Childs, W. D. M.; Mrs. Emma Hall, W. R. S.; Miss Gussie Nichols, W. L. S.; J. Herbert Jones, W. W. C. S.

THE GREELEY UNION SUNDAY SCHOOL.—Organized on the third Sunday in May, 1870. A temporary board of officers served until the last Sunday in June, when an election was held and the following persons chosen: Superintendent, J. Herbert Jones; Assistant Superintendent, E. B. Annis; Secretary, A. L. Wait; Treasurer, Fred. Feezer; Librarian, L. W. Teller; Teachers, H. M. Law; C. L. Nettleton; L. W. Teller; E. B. Annis; Mrs. Mary F. Wright; Mrs. Mattison; Miss Mary Meeker; Miss Ella Fisk; Miss West. Present membership one hundred; average attendance eighty.

GREELEY SILVER CORNET BAND.—C. W. Sanborn, Leader. Thirteen pieces—two drums—two cymbals. Cost \$775. Bought of Lyon and Healey, Chicago; made originally for their show case window. The finest set of instruments outside of the manufactory at Boston,

GREELEY LYCEUM—Organized October 22d, E.W. Gurley, President; A. J. Wilber, Vice President; W. Edgar Strunk, Secretary; N. C. Meeker, Treasurer. First public discussion on the evening of October 27th, in Colony Hall.